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THE WASHINGTON POST
17 July 1981

Man Pleads Innocent to Espionage

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., July 16—A former Army warrant officer accused of selling top-secret codes to Soviet agents almost 20 years ago, pleaded not guilty today when he appeared before a federal magistrate charged with violating the Espionage Act.

The magistrate ordered Joseph George Helmich, 44, to stand trial on Sept. 14.

During an indictment hearing yesterday, U.S. attorney Gary Betz said Helmich was rewarded by the Sovi-

ets with at least \$131,000 and "the rank of colonel in the Soviet army."

The indictment alleged that Helmich, who is married with one child and has been working for a tile company in Neptune Beach, Fla., was still "traveling and making arrangements to get more money as late as August, 1980."

He is alleged to have passed on information about the Army's KL7 code system while he was stationed in Paris and at Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1963 and 1964.